gonum, margine exteriore rotundata; secundum et tertium magna, quadrata, vel subpentagona; quartum minus, quadratum: *marginalia* anteriora trigona, plana; tertium ad octavum quadrata, carinâ longitudinali revolutâ, areolis posticis; tria sequentia expansa, areolis prominulis: *caudalia* minora, elevata: *scutum nuchale* minimum, lineare. *Sternum* convexiusculum, latum, anticè truncatum, posticè trigono-emarginatum, medio fuscum, ad latera flavescens. *Scuta* sterni omnia plana, glabra, vix sulcata: *gularia* trigona, anticè unidentata; *humeralia* quadrilatera, margine exteriore rotundato; *axillaria* et *inguinalia* exigua; *pectoralia* quadrata, propè angulum externo-anticum, sinuata; *abdominalia* quadrata; *femoralia* et *analia* minora, irregulariter quadrilatera, excavata, posticè porrecta.

Testæ osseæ mensura.

	unc.	lin.
Longitudo dorsi	8	0
Latitudo ejusdem	6	0
Altitudo	4	5
Longitudo sterni	7	6

"Parmi les diverses tortues," says Daudin, "qui ont été décrites par Linnæus dans l'édition 12 de son *Systema Naturæ*, il n'y en a sans doute aucune qui ont occasionné autant de contestations parmi les naturalistes que la Tortue raboteuse (*Testudo scabra*)." This observation is amply confirmed by the list of synonyms which I have given, and which has not been adopted without the most careful and rigorous examination.

The young of many species, already known and differently named in the adult state, have been described as distinct; and such specific terms as *scabra, verrucosa, scripta, sculpta, punctularia,* have been applied to them, from the mere character of the areolæ,—the surface of which has the same general appearance in all,—without considering that no permanent characters can belong to a part which, as I have before explained, constitutes the sole covering of the shell when the animal is first excluded from the egg, and ultimately forms the centre of the scuta. Thus *Testudo scripta* of Schœpff is the young of *Emys serrata; T. scabra* of Retz, that of *Hydraspis galeata; T. sculpta* of Spix, of *T. tabulata;* and in the present instance we find assigned to the young animal

the name *Testudo scabra* by Linnæus, followed by Daubenton in the Encyclopédie Méthodique, by Lacépède, by Latreille, and others; whilst Schœpff gives to the same animal, and probably at the same age, the name of *T. dorsata;* and Spix, long afterwards, describes it as a new species, under the name of *Emys dorsualis.* Finally, Daudin, who had followed the former authors in giving it the name of *T. scabra,* under which he very properly arranges it in the fresh-water family, was the first naturalist who described the adult animal, naming it *T. punctularia;* but he erroneously considered this as a land tortoise,—thus placing the same species, at different ages, in two very distinct groups. Upon the most careful consideration, I feel convinced that they are identical, and that the only distinctions existing between *T. scabra* of most former authors, and *T. punctularia* of Daudin, are to be attributed to the difference of age in the specimens described. Mr. Gray indeed states that the former differs *only* from the latter "in the spot on the side of the occiput, not being joined to the superciliary band." I am enabled to negative any importance which might be attached to this very trifling character, by mentioning that in two adult specimens which I have had living, this union of the occipital spot with the superciliary fascia did not exist; and there were several slight differences in the form of the markings on the head, sufficient to show how variable such characters are in different individuals of the same species.

The specific name *scabra* has been given to other species besides that now under consideration. I have already mentioned that the tortoise so named by Retz is *Hydraspis galeata,* and Daudin asserts that those of Gmelin and of Thunberg belong to other species still. The obscurity of the earlier descriptions ofthese animals must render more or less doubtful our attempted elucidations of many of these difficulties; and should certainly lead us to be cautious of giving a decided and dogmatical opinion on disputed synonyms.

The obscurity has not been lessened in the present instance by the inaccuracy of the habitat assigned to this tortoise by Seba, who terms it "*Testudo terrestris Amboinensis minor.*" The increased light which has of late years been thrown upon the geographical distribution of animals, has shown how utterly worthless is the authority of that laborious collector, in all that relates to the countries from which his specimens were said to be derived, and ren-